

Growth Industry

Unless we're mistaking signs of the times, spying is the world's fastest growing industry. On a single day this newspaper carried four major accounts of sleuths at work. There were those drug companies that hired a "security man" to spy on the activities of a price-cutting wholesaler. There were accounts of how the Passport Office spied on H. Stuart Hughes, the Harvard history professor, while he traveled abroad and how sorry General Motors is about setting private eyes on a man who thinks the Corvair is dangerous. And then there was that big-time Hungarian operative who told the Senate about the secrets of the Soviet "Department of Disinformation," an outfit that neatly forges issues of American magazines.

With foreign offices, manufacturers, credit and insurance companies all in the act, one may ask whether there is any limit to the growth of demand for spies. There are those who think that saturation will be reached when one half of the population is spying on the other. But what about the need to spy on spies?